

GOV. PROUTY
AT CONFERENCEIs With Twelve Other State
Executives

IN WASHINGTON TODAY

They Have Met in Order to Secure Uni-
formity in State Laws—Gov. Wil-
son of Kentucky Opened the
Meetings.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 18.—With the object of securing uniformity in state laws, the governors of thirteen states convened here to-day for a three days session. Governor Wilson of Kentucky opened the meetings with a speech, after which the governors lunched at the Metropolitan club. Later they called upon President Taft. Among those present are Governors Draper of Massachusetts, Quinn of New Hampshire, Prouty of Vermont and Fernald of Maine.

A Uniform Laws Convention.

A discussion of the forest problem, banking and corporation laws, taxes and the election of officers occupied the time to-day of the conference on uniform laws convention. Alton R. Parker was re-elected a permanent president, John M. Stahl of Illinois, secretary, and John Hays Hammond, treasurer. The resolutions committee recommended the adoption of the negotiating instruments act, a uniform divorce act, laws to suppress the white slave traffic and the espionage by all the states of a pure food law.

THEFT OF SHOES.

Caused a Train of Troubles for This
Canadian.

Montreal, Jan. 18.—The case of Telephore Guerin, which already has attracted considerable public attention, was called for hearing before the court of appeal yesterday.

Guerin is a Canadian, who had the misfortune to get caught in Jeffersonville, Indiana, for the theft of a pair of shoes of the value of \$2.75. He was sentenced to pay a fine of \$5 and \$14 costs, with not less than one year and not more than eight years in the penitentiary in addition.

After sixteen months in jail, Guerin was released on parole, and it is said, was employed by the nephew of the warden of the penitentiary. Guerin declares that this employment brought him in the salary of \$4 a week, and that he was told, when he spoke of leaving for more remunerative fields, that he could either do the work or be arrested. He wrote to his brother in Montreal, and the brother sent him the necessary funds to come to this city. Shortly after Guerin reached Montreal he was re-arrested on the charge of breaking his parole. He was taken before the extradition commissioner and extradition was granted. It is against this that he is now appealing to the highest tribunal in the province.

LARGE CONVENTION
OF MINERSAn Attendance of 1500 at Opening of
Meeting—Welcome Given by Gov.
Marshall, with Response by
President.

Indianapolis, Ind., Jan. 18.—Fifteen hundred miners were present when the convention of United Mine Workers opened here to-day. They were welcomed by Governor Marshall, and President Lewis responded. The first day was spent in organizing.

CZARINA HYSTERICAL.

She is Reported to be in a Serious Con-
dition.

London, Jan. 18.—The latest reports concerning the illness of the czarina of Russia, are of a more alarming nature than were any recent rumors, as it is reliably stated that she has had a second relapse since returning to St. Petersburg. The correspondence of the Times at St. Petersburg telegraphs that she suffered an acute attack of hysteria, followed by a prolonged lapse of consciousness. Three specialists were summoned, including Dr. Bekhterev, a leading authority on mental disease. Her Majesty, it is stated, rallied, but one of the lady's limbs remains in attendance at the imperial palace.

WILL WIPE OUT DEFICIT.

If Certain Postal Is Allowed to Be Is-
sued, Is Claim.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 18.—The postal deficit will be converted to a surplus if a souvenir postal is issued bearing the legend "Words are not wings of thought which fly from mind to mind, and wise are they who always say things thoughtfully and kindly." So says Representative Howell of New Jersey, who introduced a bill in Congress to-day providing for the issuance of these cards at two cents each.

An automobile owned by Percival W. Clement and driven by his chauffeur, A. S. Drummond, collided in Rutland Friday evening with a car owned by H. E. Joyce and driven by Wallace Peters. The horse was knocked down and Peters was thrown several feet, landing on his back. Neither man or horse was badly hurt and the machine was but slightly damaged.

EMPHATIC DENIAL.

Made by Secretary Ballinger to Hitch-
cock Charge.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 18.—Secretary Ballinger late last night issued a lengthy statement, in which in most vigorous terms he declares the charges made by Representative Hitchcock yesterday before the house committee on expenditures and aimed at the interior department and the general land office are without foundation.

Answering in turn each of the charges, Secretary Ballinger asserts that "in so far as they allege any extravagance, wrong doing or favoritism on my part, they are absolutely without foundation."

"False, ridiculously false, equally false, equally ridiculous, a peculiarly unwarranted assault upon an efficient government officer," the latter referring to Mr. Schwartz, chief of field service are expression which he uses in repudiating the various charges. In regard to appointing a relative, J. H. Ballinger, as confidential clerk when he became commissioner of the land office, the secretary says this was because he was not personally acquainted before coming here with any officers or clerks in the land office and desired to have as confidential clerk some one he knew. He says Judge Wright was not removed to make way for J. H. Ballinger, but because Judge Wright's age, nearly 80, made him physically disqualified to perform his duties. The vacancy on the law board, he says, was filled not by "Jack" Ballinger, but by Judge Gray.

He says that "certain large brick chimneys," to which Mr. Hitchcock alluded, "were erected pursuant to a specific appropriation for that purpose by Congress," that the additional clerks in the land office complained of were appointed by the congressional appropriation of \$1,000,000 for protecting public lands and that the charge in regard to the purchase of furniture "is on a par with that relating to the employment of additional clerks."

COOK LOCATED
IN GERMANY NOWArctic Explorer Is Said to Be Suffering
from Physical Collapse and Melan-
cholia.

Frankfort, Germany, Jan. 18.—Frankfort Zeitung says to-day that Dr. Cook is in a sanitarium near Heidelberg, suffering from a physical collapse. The article says that his mind is deviated from melancholia. It is reported that Mrs. Cook is with him, but the report has not been verified.

TELEGRAM FROM MRS. COOK.

Also Letter with Finger Marks, Says
Secretary of Doctor.

Copenhagen, Jan. 18.—Referring to the statement attributed to Mrs. Stebbins, a New York friend of Mrs. Frederick A. Cook, that the explorer's wife had not left America since his disappearance, Walter Lonsdale, Dr. Cook's secretary, said yesterday that Mrs. Stebbins must be mistaken.

The reason for his belief is that he received a telegram from Mrs. Cook, dated Gibraltar, Dec. 23, and that Dr. Cook's notebook also sent to him from Gibraltar, was inclosed in a cover with Mrs. Cook's handwriting and with her finger print in wax.

Mr. Lonsdale admits that the telegram might have been spurious and the cover prepared in New York, but he does not think this was the case.

HUGHES WON'T RUN AGAIN.

He So Decides Out of Consideration for
His Family.

New York, Jan. 18.—The announcement that I will not be a candidate for the governorship to succeed myself is entirely accurate. I feel that in justice to my family I should resume the practice of law. I am glad to reiterate my appreciation of the confidence which the citizens of New York have reposed in me.

The foregoing interview with Governor Hughes appeared in The Tribune to-day under a Washington date. Before leaving for Washington yesterday, Governor Hughes declined to comment on the report that he would not be a candidate again, but his aide had indicated that this was the governor's decision.

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 18.—"I assume that Governor Hughes knows his own mind, but I have known men's minds to change," was the comment of State Comptroller Wm. Barnes Jr., yesterday, concerning the report that the governor would not be a candidate for re-nomination.

"In any event," continued Mr. Barnes, "the Republican party will be able to get a candidate; it always has."

Speaker Washington of the assembly expressed the opinion that so far as Republican gubernatorial timber was concerned, the candidate must be a man "without political scars."

LEFT \$500,000 ESTATE.

Late D. O. Mills' Will Was Filed Yes-
terday.

New York, Jan. 18.—The will of Darius Ogden Mills, who died at Millbrae, Cal., on January 3, was filed for probate here yesterday. The will, which was executed December 4, 1908, leaves all the estate, with the exception of \$400,000 to certain institutions, to his son, Ogden Mills, and his daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth M. Reid, the wife of Mr. Whitelaw Reid, the American ambassador to the court of St. James.

The deceased, after the payment of his debts and funeral expenses, leaves \$100,000 each to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the American Museum of Natural History and the Home for Incurables. To the New York Botanical Gardens, he leaves \$50,000, and to the American Geographical society and the American Red Cross \$25,000 each.

The residue of the estate he divides equally between his two children, Ogden Mills and Mrs. Elizabeth M. Reid, and he also appoints them executors of his will. The petition accompanying the will put no estimate on the value of the estate, but it was said to be in the neighborhood of \$500,000.

FIRE RAGED
THROUGH MILLLoss of \$17,500 at St. Johns-
bury Today

FIVE BUILDINGS DOWN

Follensby & Peck Meet with Heavy Loss
in Destruction of Most of Their
Plant—The Insurance About
\$7,000.

St. Johnsbury, Jan. 18.—The lumber mill of Follensby & Peck was almost entirely wiped out by fire early this morning, the loss being estimated at \$17,500, with insurance of \$7,000. Five buildings were burned, leaving the company one storehouse for clapboards, an office and a store building, which was located some distance away from the other buildings. A bridge on the St. Johnsbury & Lake Champlain railroad, near the mill, was partially destroyed, the loss on it being \$500. The property was in the Summerville section of the town.

The fire was discovered at 12:30 o'clock and several of the buildings were enveloped in flames at that time. All of St. Johnsbury's fire apparatus, including hose companies and one hook and ladder company, turned out in response to the alarm. Most of the buildings were so near together that it was impossible to save them. Those burned included a saw-mill, 36 by 60 feet in size; a planing-mill, 40 by 40 feet and two stories high; a sawdust elevator and toolhouse, 20 by 24; a 16 by 60 storehouse for dressed and rough lumber, together with hardwood flooring; a storehouse, 18 by 72, for dressed lumber and clapboards. The owners were not able to say to-day whether they would rebuild.

The mill had a capacity of turning out 10,000 feet of lumber a day, and when running full time employed twenty men. At the present time only six men were employed, the mill having been started up yesterday noon after quite a long shutdown. The mill was in operation only two hours in the afternoon, so the cause of the fire cannot be traced to a hot-box. Two stoves had been fired up during the day, but the blaze in one of them had died out and in the other it was very low. Therefore, the cause of the fire is problematical. Most of the lumber stored outside the buildings was saved.

GOOD-LOOKING GIRL

WAS SOLD FOR \$20

According to Verdict Which Was Reached
in "White Slave" Case
in New York.

New York, Jan. 18.—The price of a comely girl in New York is \$20. For this sum Elizabeth Harzo, 20 years old, was "sold" to a woman maintaining a resort in East 79th street, according to indictments returned yesterday afternoon by the Rockefeller grand jury, which is investigating the white slave traffic in Greater New York.

Six indictments in all were returned yesterday afternoon—the first since the grand jury began its sessions—and two arrests were made almost immediately thereafter.

Paul Dranko and Philip Mangold were arraigned before Judge O'Sullivan in the court of general sessions and held in \$7000 bail each for trial. Other arrests will follow. The prisoners held yesterday went to the Tombs in default of bail and will probably be placed on trial next week. They are charged with abducting and selling the Harzo girl.

FR. RICE HEARS FROM POPE.

Bishop-Elect of Burlington Officially
Notified of Election.

Worcester, Mass., Jan. 18.—The Rev. Dr. Joseph J. Rice, rector of St. Peter's in Northbridge, has been officially notified of his elevation to the bishopric of Burlington by Pope Pius.

The word of confirmation came from the chancellor of the diocese of Burlington. The formal communication from Rome is expected in about two weeks, and will come first to Mr. Falconio, papal delegate at Washington, and thence will be transmitted to Fr. Rice.

WILL TEST LAW.

Providing for Corporation Tax and
Passed by Congress.

Battleboro, Jan. 18.—Stella P. Flint of Windsor, as general guardian of the property of Samuel N. Stone Jr., a minor, has brought a bill in equity in the United States circuit court before Judge J. L. Martin against the Stone Tracy company, Frank R. Tracy, Ida S. Tracy and L. B. Hayward, directors of the company, also of Windsor.

The case will test the constitutionality of the corporation tax law passed by Congress and approved by the president, Aug. 5, 1909. It will be heard in Battleboro on Thursday, before Judge Martin.

FOR RUTLAND POSTMASTER.

President Taft Has Recommended J. A.
Sheldon, Present Incumbent.

Washington, Jan. 18.—President Taft yesterday sent to the Senate the nomination of John A. Sheldon as postmaster at Rutland, Vt. Mr. Sheldon has held the office since 1897. He is 70 years old, a Civil war veteran and past department commander of the G. A. R. Allen, Boston.

TELEPHONE COMPANY
COMPLAINED OFState's Attorney Jones of Rutland Peti-
tions Public Service Com-
mission for Hearing.

Rutland, Jan. 18.—State's Attorney J. C. Jones of this city has filed a complaint with the public service commission against the New England Telephone and Telegraph company, charging that the price, tolls and rentals of the company in this county are unreasonably in violation of the law, in that the company is charging certain rates for certain individuals and parties and to other individuals and parties the company charges a greater and higher rate.

It is charged that the company unjustly discriminates in tolls, rentals and regulations between its subscribers and patrons in Rutland county for similar service, charging unlawful and excessive rates to such an extent as amounts to usurpation and extortion. It is further charged that the company fails to conduct its business in this county in such a manner as to promote the safety, convenience and accommodation of the public, but does conduct its business in such a manner as to interfere with the safety, convenience and accommodation of its subscribers and patrons.

State's Attorney Jones asks the commission to order a public hearing on the issues in question. The bill of complaint was yesterday forwarded to John W. Redmond, chairman of the commission.

FARMERS' MEETING.

Commissioner Martin Will Bring a Force
of Experts and Effective Speakers
to Williamstown.

Williamstown, Jan. 18.—O. L. Martin, commissioner of agriculture, accompanied by a force of experts and interesting speakers, will hold a meeting in Williamstown on Saturday afternoon and evening, January 29. For this meeting, Mr. Martin has gathered the best speakers available, and after all the meetings thus far held in the state this season, the universal comment has been emphatic that they were the best of the kind ever held in the respective places.

J. W. Sanborn of New Hampshire, formerly director of the Missouri experiment station, who is an expert in crop rotation, dairying and the home mixing of fertilizers.

R. W. McKean, lecturer of the Maine state grange and a former secretary of the Maine state board of agriculture, who is an all-around farming expert.

D. H. Lamberton of Burlington, editor and former educator, who discusses feasible methods of introducing elementary agriculture into the public schools of Vermont.

A. F. Hawes of Burlington, state forester, who discusses ways and means of reforestation as needed in Vermont.

50 INCUBATOR CHICKS.

One of Features of Poultry Show at
St. Albans.

St. Albans, Jan. 18.—The Vermont poultry show opened in city hall to-day and the indications are that it will be the most successful show ever held in the city. All day yesterday entries arrived from Waterbury, Barre, Bristol, Swanton, Boston, New Hampshire and many places in Canada, until last night there were over 600 birds on hand. With the 300 more birds expected, the final show will number 900 exhibits. This is the largest number ever shown. Among the entries which arrived last night from Boston was a brood of 50 incubator chicks, about ten days old, which was owned by a Frenchtown, N. J., fancier, and which had been shown at the Boston show. The largest exhibitor up to last night was Frank W. Sault of Swanton, whose specialty is Rhode Island reds. The judges, D. P. Shore of Fall River, Mass., and A. C. Smith of Waltham, Mass., began their work to-day. The hall is in charge of H. W. Ballard. The president of the association is F. W. Sault, the secretary is W. F. Witters; assistant secretary, Arthur C. S. Beaman; treasurer, C. L. Curtis.

CAPITALIZED AT \$200,000.

New Marble Concern at Fair Haven Files
Incorporation.

Association papers were filed yesterday afternoon at the office of the Vermont secretary of state for the formation of a new marble company in Rutland county. The name of the new firm is to be the American Art Marble company of Fair Haven, with its principal offices in that town. The company is formed, as stated in the papers, for the manufacturing, buying, selling and dealing in marble and other minerals, also for erecting, building and planning buildings.

The capital stock of this company is to be \$200,000, divided into 2,000 shares at \$100 each. The signers are Edward E. Allen, P. O. Vaughn, R. C. Reed, R. L. Reed of Fair Haven and David A. Sullivan of Brooklyn, N. Y.

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NATIONAL
LIFE ELECTIONWas Held at Annual Meeting
Today

DEBOER AGAIN AT HEAD

Entire Board of Officers Was Re-elected
for the Ensuing Year—Prosperous
Year Indicated by the
Reports.

The annual meeting of the policyholders of the National Life Insurance company of Vermont was held at the company's headquarters in Montpelier to-day, beginning shortly after ten o'clock. The terms of three of the directors had expired, and the same men were re-elected, being Joseph A. DeBoer and Harry M. Cutler of Montpelier and ex-Governor Fletcher D. Proctor of Proctor.

The old board of officers was re-elected by the directors, including the following: President, Joseph A. DeBoer; vice-president, Fred A. Howland; second vice-president, James B. Bates; secretary, Osmund Clark; treasurer, H. M. Cutler; medical director, Dr. E. A. Colton; inspectors, George Briggs, Frank A. Dwinell and Frank M. Bryan. At the directors' meeting, the departmental reports were given, showing the institution to be in a prosperous condition. All the directors were present except ex-Gov. John G. McCullough, who is in New York, and ex-Gov. Proctor, who is on the Pacific coast. At the meeting of the policyholders, President DeBoer presented his annual report.

The financial statement shows an increase in assets of \$3,464,939, an increase in surplus of \$549,943, an increase in insurance of \$5,040,031, new insurance paid for \$16,561,778 and a total insurance in force of \$130,187,877.

The company has provided for a cash distribution of dividends during 1910 of \$762,609.46, for a net increase in deferred dividend accounts of \$186,354.23, and has added to the general surplus for future distribution \$303,378.93, a total of \$1,252,342.62.

FELL 90 FEET TO DEATH.

Smokestack Crashes Down with Two
Men at Attleboro.

Attleboro, Mass., Jan. 18.—Joseph Bunna, aged 19, of Norwich, Ct., was instantly killed and Ephraim Fountain, aged about 25 years, also of Norwich, was probably fatally injured by the collapse of a smokestack yesterday afternoon.

These two men and C. E. Kinney, employed by a roofing company of Providence, were engaged to remove the upper portion of a large smoke stack on Maiden lane and adjacent to the power house for the E. A. Robinson estate. The men had put staging, ropes and a swinging chain in position and Bunna, according to statements made by men near, was standing on a board placed across the top of the stack and 80 or 90 feet from the ground, when there was a creak that started employees in the factories about and the top of the stack, staging and the two men went down.

Young Bunna struck first on the edge and then bounded to the street. He was picked up dead and Fountain was taken to a hospital in Providence in a critical condition. When at the station on a stretcher, awaiting a train, he appeared cool and remarked to some bystanders, who were sympathizing with him, that if he got out of his accident all right he would return to that work again. "You have to expect accidents in this steeply climbing and chimney business," he said.

TAKING SCHOOL CENSUS.

There is Additional Work on the Enu-
merators This Year.

The annual census of the children of school age in this city was begun yesterday and will probably be completed this week. The work is being done by James R. Mackay and James T. Kenefick. In addition to the compilation of the names, ages and sex of all children from 5 to 15 years, residing in the city, there are lines on the enumerators' blanks for the enumeration of deaf and dumb, blind, epileptic and feeble-minded children.

Last year's census showed 2,746 children of school age in the city, 1,404 boys and 1,342 girls.

36 RECOMMENDED.

In St. Johnsbury District Probate Court
in Single Day.

St. Johnsbury, Jan. 18.—Thirty-six cases were heard before Probate Judge W. T. Smith of the St. Johnsbury district yesterday, and papers for recommitment were issued in every case. There are four more cases to be heard.

TALK OF THE TOWN.

Mrs. Arthur A. Mitchell has returned
from North Adams, Mass., where she
has been working during the past three
months.

Among arrivals at the City hotel last evening and to-day were P. W. Boardman, Concord, N. H.; R. W. Elsworth, New York; R. W. Kent, Randolph, N. A. Morin, Springfield, Mass.; G. H. Parsons, Concord, N. H.; G. A. Severance, L. L. Allen, Boston.

DEATH OF MRS. A. W. CLARK.

Occurred in Hardwick on Sunday, Fun-
eral To-day in Groton.

The many friends of Mrs. A. N. Clark were pained to learn of her death, which occurred at her home at Hardwick early Sunday morning. She had not been strong for several years, but failed rapidly in the last six weeks. The body, accompanied by her husband and sister, was brought here yesterday and funeral services held this afternoon. Before her marriage Mrs. Clark was Miss Maggie Sinclair, daughter of John and Agnes Sinclair, and was born at Warren, N. H., thirty-five years ago. She married Almon N. Clark of Groton about fifteen years ago and their married life has been passed here and at Hardwick. Besides her husband, who leaves her mother, Mrs. Agnes Sinclair of Bath, N. H., and two sisters, Mrs. Bert Foster, also of Bath, and Mrs. George Clark of this town.

A. S. Clark met with a painful accident Friday afternoon while at work loading coal at the coal kilns. Making a misstep backwards he fell from the top of the car to the ground, a distance of ten or more feet, fracturing two ribs and otherwise bruising and shaking him up. Mr. Clark's many friends are hoping his injuries, although painful, will not prove lasting and he will soon be able to be out again.

The annual meeting of the Groton Telephone company was held at their office at Groton Tuesday, January 11, and the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Directors, Thomas B. Hall, Alexander Cochran, John F. Hatch, M. D. Coffin, L. F. Blanchard, I. M. Bicker. The directors organized by electing the following officers: President, Thomas B. Hall; vice-president, Alexander Cochran; manager, John F. Hatch; assistant manager and clerk, M. D. Coffin; treasurer, F. M. Page. During the past six months the company has installed fifty new instruments, and at this meeting declared a 4 per cent. dividend payable January 20, leaving a balance of \$549.00 in the treasury.

WEEKLY PUBLISHERS ORGANIZE.

Officers Elected and Committee Appoint-
ed to Draw Up By-laws Last Night.

The publishers of twenty weekly newspapers of the state were represented either in person or by proxy at a meeting held in the Pavilion at Montpelier last evening, for the purpose of organizing the Vermont Weekly Newspaper Publishers' association. Officers were elected as follows: President, L. P. Thayer of Morrisville; vice-president, F. N. Wadley of Northfield; secretary and treasurer, M. C. Reynolds of Essex Junction; executive committee, L. B. Johnson of Randolph, E. H. Crane of Brattleboro and W. J. Bigelow of St. Johnsbury.

A committee, consisting of the president and secretary, was appointed to draw up a set of by-laws and report at a meeting to be held later. The object of the organization is the mutual benefit to be gained from the united efforts of the publishers of the various state weeklies, this being construed to mean the financial advantages which would result from an organization of this kind.

"FROM NATURE TO MAN."

Title of Little Volume Written by For-
mer Barre Minister.

The Hampden Publishing company of Springfield, Mass., has published a little volume, entitled, "From Nature to Man," being a compilation of lectures delivered by Rev. Charles C. Conner, until recently pastor of the Universalist church in Barre. The volume is dedicated "to the dear one who was companion and inspiration and to the people who were kind when she went away through the shadow, lost to outer light and abode, but not to life and love."

In his preface the author states that the title "does not mean that man is not natural, or not within the realm of the generous mother," but rather "it is chosen for a few studies of nature and life given in a rather informal manner as lectures, some of which are narrative." The topics include, "Mount Mansfield," "On Moonshine," "A Sabbath in Boston," "The Weaver of a Week in Barre," "Lessons of the Sea," "Message of the Mountains" and "Parables of the Plains."

NEARLY RUN DOWN.

Daughter of Policeman Carle Had a
Narrow Escape.

A runaway horse on Cornhill street yesterday noon came very nearly running down the nine-year-old daughter of Policeman George Carle and the accident was only saved by a man who, seeing her danger, ran and threw her off the sidewalk as the horse dashed by. The little girl had just left her home to go up street and as the horse, attached to a stage, came dashing down the walk behind her she turned and saw it but was too frightened to run out of the way. The team, which was later stopped on Blackwell street, belonged to an Italian grocery firm, but the name was not learned.

TO PAY OFF ITS DEBTS.

Officers of Rutland County Agricultural
Society Raise Money.

Rutland, Jan. 18.—The officers of the Rutland county agricultural society have indicated a note and secured money to pay off its indebtedness, including about \$1700 in premiums at the last fair.

They have notified exhibitors that before the 1910 fair opens money will be deposited in a Rutland bank to cover the premium list, so that all premiums will be paid promptly, rain or shine.

WILL ASK FOR BIDS.

Sergeant-at-arms Ferris to Proceed with
State House Ventilation.

Sergeant-at-arms C. R. Ferris has received instructions from Gov. Prouty to go ahead with the plans for the better ventilation of the State House at Montpelier, and he is now arranging to receive bids for doing the work.

UNJUST RATES
ARE ALLEGEDIn Petition Against Central
Vermont Railroad

ON GRANITE SHIPMENTS

Claimed That Rate on Rough Granite
from Barre to St. Albans Is 25
Cents and to Burlington \$1.50
Per Ton.

Claiming unfair, unjust and discriminatory rates on the shipment of rough granite, State's Attorney Benjamin Gates of Washington county has brought a petition against the Central Vermont railroad and asks the Vermont public service commission for a hearing for the adjudication of the same. The petition, which went to the commission to-day, asserts that rough granite is shipped over the Central Vermont railroad from Barre to certain points in Vermont at disproportionate rates, stating specifically that the rate from Barre to Waterbury is 17 cents a ton, whereas from Barre to Burlington it is \$1.50 per ton. The petition, although not tagged, is presumably brought at the instigation of Burlington interests, which claim that they are discriminated against in competition with Waterbury and St. Albans in the granite industry. The petition states, as a basis for further comparison, that the rate from Barre to Waterbury is one-half a cent per mile per ton, and from Barre to Burlington it is four cents.

State's Attorney Gates is acting under section 4612 of the Vermont statutes, which gives the right of initiative to a state's attorney, as well as to the attorney general or ten or more freeholders of the state. He asks the public service commission to fix a schedule of rates which shall be just, fair and non-discriminatory, since the commission is given that power under section 4535, which reads:

"When, in the judgment of the board of railroad commissioners, after investigation and hearing, upon reasonable notice to all parties interested, it appears that any of the rates, tariffs or charges posted as provided in the second preceding section, are excessive, unjust, unreasonable or discriminatory, it shall, by order made in the premises, determine and prescribe what will be a just and reasonable rate, tariff or charge, etc."

NO MATERIAL
CHANGE TODAYEfforts for Barre Conference Were
Stopped When Cutters Learned Man-
ufacturers' Committee Were
Not All Barre Men.

The past twenty-four hours have brought about no material change in the situation in the granite industry of Barre. According to the statement of the press committee of the Manufacturers' association, the following communication was last evening mailed to the secretaries of all the union lookout committees in the jurisdiction of the association:

"Barre, Vt., Jan. 17, '10.
Dear Sir:—In reply to your letter of Jan. 15, '10, I have been instructed to notify you that the Granite Manufacturers' association has a committee that is ready to confer with a like committee from your branch, at any time you desire a conference.
Very truly yours,
"C. H. Wisbart, Sec."

The lookout committee in reply to the above tried to arrange a meeting for this afternoon, but